Department of Demography

The Department of Demography offers a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Applied Demography. The focus of the Ph.D. program is on the application of demographic analysis to policy issues encountered in the public and private sectors. The program faculty has two broad areas of focus: Health and Inequality, and Migration.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Applied Demography

Students accepted for admission into the Ph.D. program in Applied Demography have the opportunity to engage in advanced study and research in the field of Applied Demography as it applies to questions in such areas as public policy and administration, urban and regional planning, life sciences, medicine, business, and the social sciences. Depending on their area of focus, students may work with faculty from a variety of areas of study offered at UTSA.

The Applied Demography program prepares students to address the expanding education and research problems that are at the intersection of demography, public policy and administration, education, public health, and health care. Students may pursue careers in university departments that teach demography, university-based medical centers, public-health related organizations and agencies, health science centers, national and corporate settings, and local, state and federal government. Students are trained to examine the effects of demographic factors on policy—both private and public.

The regulations for this degree comply with the general University regulations (refer to Chapter 2, General Academic Regulations, and Chapter 5, Doctoral Degree Regulations).

Admission Requirements

In addition to satisfying the University-wide requirements for admission to graduate programs, all prospective students must have a bachelor’s degree and a Master of Science or Master of Arts degree from an accredited university in demography/sociology, geography, economics, biology, political science, statistics, mathematics, business, or a similar field. Students who have not earned a qualifying master’s degree may be required to complete the equivalent courses in the appropriate discipline area before admission to the Ph.D. program in Applied Demography.

In addition, applicants must submit:

1. official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework completed,
2. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores from a GRE-administered examination completed no more than five years prior to the Ph.D. student’s date of application. All applicants are required to submit scores from the GRE math, verbal, and analytical portions of the examination and scores for a related specialty area,
3. three letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources familiar with the applicant’s background, and
4. a letter of application describing the applicant’s academic and work backgrounds and goals and objectives related to the applicant’s Ph.D. program.

International students from non-English-speaking countries must also submit a score of at least 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper version or 79 Internet version, as required by the University. These test scores may not be more than two years old at the date of application to the Ph.D. program.

A complete application includes the application form, official transcripts, GRE scores, three letters of recommendation, a letter of application stating academic and work experience, interests and goals, and if required, a TOEFL score. Admission is competitive and satisfying these requirements does not guarantee admission.

Degree Requirements

The Applied Demography Ph.D. requires students to complete a minimum of 42 hours of organized coursework and a minimum of 12 hours of dissertation credits for a total of at least 54 hours beyond the master’s degree. The doctoral program has a base of core courses that will result in all students having a firm grounding in demography and related areas of statistics with students then choosing their area of specialization. All students will be required to complete the core courses listed below and a set of courses in their chosen area of specialization.

All students are expected to enter the program with some proficiency and aptitude for utilizing statistical software (i.e., SAS, Stat, R). Basic ability to use the DEM-Research server to import and transform data sets and conduct basic statistical analyses is a requirement to be successful with a number of courses, and skills demonstrated by this ability are important to being an applied demographer. Recognizing that some students start the program with computer and software skills and knowledge, an examination has been developed that will assess this competency.

Program of Study for Ph.D. in Applied Demography

A. Core Research and Statistics Courses: 12

1. Nine semester credit courses of required courses:
   - DEM 7243 General Research Methods for Demographers
   - DEM 7273 Statistics for Demographic Data I
   - DEM 7283 Statistics for Demographic Data II
2. One additional course to be selected from the following (3 semester credit hours):
   - DEM 7023 Advanced Methods of Demographic Analysis
   - DEM 7143 Applied Mathematical Demography
   - DEM 7223 Event History Analysis
   - DEM 7263 Spatial Demography
   - DEM 7473 Applied Hierarchical Modeling

B. Core Demography Courses: 18

1. Nine semester credit hours selected from the following courses:
   - DEM 7013 Demographic Methods of Analysis
   - DEM 7093 GIS for Population Science
   - DEM 7113 Social Demography and Community Trends
2. Nine semester credit hours of required courses:
   - DEM 7033 Mortality
   - DEM 7083 Fertility
   - DEM 7043 Migration
   - or DEM 705: International Migration

C. Advanced Courses (a minimum of 12 semester credit hours selected from the following is required): 12
Program of Study for Ph.D. in Applied Demography concentration in Sociology

A. Core Research and Statistics Courses: 12
1. Required courses (9 semester credit hours):
   DEM 7243 General Research Methods for Demographers
   DEM 7273 Statistics for Demographic Data I
   DEM 7283 Statistics for Demographic Data II
2. One additional course to be selected from the following (3 semester credit hours):
   DEM 7023 Advanced Methods of Demographic Analysis
   DEM 7143 Applied Mathematical Demography
   DEM 7223 Event History Analysis
   DEM 7263 Spatial Demography
   DEM 7473 Applied Hierarchical Modeling
   SOC 5083 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

B. Core Demography Courses: 18
1. Required Courses (9 semester credit hours):
   DEM 7013 Demographic Methods of Analysis
   DEM 7093 GIS for Population Science
   DEM 7113 Social Demography and Community Trends
2. Three required courses to be selected from the following (9 semester credit hours):
   DEM 7033 Mortality
   DEM 7043 Migration
   DEM 7063 Applied Demography in Policy Settings
   DEM 7073 Disparities in Health and Health Care
   DEM 7123 Applied Demography in Education
   DEM 7153 Applied Demography in Public Health
   DEM 7173 Applied Demography in Urban and Regional Planning
   DEM 7183 Social and Economic Impact Assessment
   DEM 7253 Survey Methods for Demographers
   DEM 7413 Demographic Perspectives on Poverty
   DEM 7423 Demography of the Labor Force and Labor Markets
   DEM 7433 Demography of Race and Ethnicity
   DEM 7443 Demography of Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood
   DEM 7453 Sexual and Reproductive Health
   DEM 7463 Family Demography
   DEM 7783 Internship in Applied Demography
   DEM 7803 Directed Research (Maximum 6 hours)
   DEM 7811 Doctoral Research (Maximum 6 hours)
   DEM 7813 Doctoral Research (Maximum 6 hours)
   DEM 7816 Doctoral Research (Maximum 6 hours)
   DEM 7903 Special Topics (Maximum 9 hours)

D. Doctoral Dissertation (minimum 12 semester credit hours): 12
   DEM 7911 Doctoral Dissertation
   DEM 7913 Doctoral Dissertation
   DEM 7916 Doctoral Dissertation

Total Credit Hours 54

C. Four Advanced Concentrations Courses to be selected from one of the following three concentrations (12 semester credit hours):
1. Health Concentration
   a. One course (3 semester credit hours):
      DEM 7073 Disparities in Health and Health Care
   b. Three courses to be selected from the following (9 semester credit hours):
      DEM 7153 Applied Demography in Public Health
      SOC 5133 Sociology of Health and Health Care
      SOC 6713 Health Care System in the United States
      SOC 6723 Religion, Health, and Mortality
      SOC 6733 The Social Psychology of Health and Illness

2. Immigration Concentration
   a. One course (3 semester credit hours):
      DEM 7433 Demography of Race and Ethnicity
   b. Three courses (9 semester credit hours):
      SOC 5223 Mexican Americans: Community, Culture, and Class
      SOC 5253 Border Studies
      SOC 6043 Immigration and Society

3. Family Concentration
   a. One course (3 semester credit hours):
      DEM 7443 Demography of Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood
   b. Three courses to be selected from the following (9 semester credit hours):
      SOC 5123 Family Contexts and Social Change
      SOC 5323 Sociology of Childhood
      SOC 6743 Religion, Spirituality, and Families
      SOC 6753 Racial/Ethnic Minority Families in the United States
      SOC 6763 Youth and Emerging Adulthood
      DEM 7063 Applied Demography in Policy Settings
      DEM 7123 Applied Demography in Education
      DEM 7173 Applied Demography in Urban and Regional Planning
      DEM 7183 Social and Economic Impact Assessment
      DEM 7253 Survey Methods for Demographers
      DEM 7413 Demographic Perspectives on Poverty
      DEM 7423 Demography of the Labor Force and Labor Markets
      DEM 7783 Internship in Applied Demography

D. Doctoral Dissertation (minimum 12 semester credit hours): 12
   DEM 7911 Doctoral Dissertation
   DEM 7913 Doctoral Dissertation
   DEM 7916 Doctoral Dissertation

Total Credit Hours 54

The entire program of study must be approved by the student’s dissertation advisor and graduate committee, and must be submitted
to the Dean of the Graduate School through the Dean of the College of Public Policy for final approval.

**Admission to Candidacy**

Advancement to candidacy requires that a student complete University and Applied Demography requirements. The student must choose a graduate committee and designate one faculty member as chair of that committee. This faculty member must be a member of the graduate faculty of UTSA. A degree plan must be submitted by each student to his or her specific graduate committee and must be approved by the committee before the end of the second semester of enrollment. The student may seek candidacy by taking and passing written and oral qualifying examinations. The written examination is administered by the graduate faculty. The oral qualifying examination will assess issues not adequately addressed in the student's written examination. The student will also submit and undergo an oral examination in defense of the student's dissertation proposal. Written qualifying examinations will be scheduled twice a year. Oral examinations are administered at the discretion of the student's committee and must meet the timeline and requirements of the University. All students must schedule a defense of their dissertation at which all members of their committee are present to examine the student and issue a pass/fail evaluation of the student's work. The Chair of the student's committee is responsible for approval of the final corrections of the student's dissertation.

**Dissertation**

Candidates must demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research by completing and defending an original dissertation. The research topic is determined by the student in consultation with his or her supervising professor. A dissertation committee, selected by the student in consultation with his or her supervising professor, guides and critiques the candidate's research. The completed dissertation must be formally presented and defended to, and approved by, the student's Dissertation Committee. Awarding of the degree is based on the approval of the Dissertation Committee. The UTSA Dean of the Graduate School certifies the completion of all University-wide requirements.